SGWU ANNOUNCES NEW

CENTER FOR HUMAN RELATIONS
AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICE
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GERALD WRIGHT DIRECTOR

METROPOLITAN YMCA
OF MONTREAL

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS
UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOLS

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Sir George Williams University has announced the creation of a Center for Human Relations and Community Studies. The new research center, to begin work in September, will make the latest research and information in the field of Applied Social Sciences available to public and private organizations serving the fields of health, recreation, general education, religious education, and welfare in Montreal.

Dr. Hedley Dimock has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Applied Social Sciences and Director of the Center. In announcing the establishment of the Center, Principal R. C. Rae stated it was hoped that community organizations would consult the University's resources on their special research needs and organization problems, such as inservice, professional education, training programs for volunteer leaders, and urban community studies.

Several study and consultation projects are tentatively planned for this Fall. The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and the YMCA of Hamilton will receive help in the design of training programs for their staff. The Center is now planning to undertake a study of the inter-personal relations and problems of mothers in modern suburbia.

At present there are 90 students at Sir George Williams University studying the applied social sciences. There are 45 students proceeding to professional careers in the YMCA and 30 students studying

for careers in the Boys' Clubs of Canada. The Center will make available opportunities for them to gain laboratory experience on research projects undertaken by the Center.

In discussing some of the needs the Center hopes to fulfill, Dr. Dimock stated that "with all the rapid change taking place in our modern urban living, there is a continuing need for community-serving organizations to understand changing patterns of family life and their effect upon children, teenagers, young adults, and parents. Youngsters, for example, are dating earlier and going steady at 12 and 13 years old. We need to learn how to cope with a new generation who are facing the impact of the mobility provided by the automobile, the love images of TV, easy access of alcohol, and a new standard of moral behaviour. In the United States and Canada, there is increasing unemployment in the teenage group which is closely related to the increase in school drop-outs."

The Center also hopes to undertake studies in the field of human relations and group life. Dr. Dimock stated that "there is a need to help people in organization life develop skills to cope with "the organization" so that their individual initiative is not smothered. Decisions that used to be made by individuals, now are made by committees and this kind of group decision process is something that the organization and the individual both need to learn more about.